AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) An amplification primer pair comprising an oligonucleotide anchor and primer, said anchor having a nucleic acid chemistry which is not a substrate for reverse transcriptases or DNA polymerases, and/or having a 3'-end which is not capable of priming nucleic acid synthesis;

wherein said primer has a nucleic acid chemistry that is a substrate for reverse transcriptases or DNA polymerases; and

wherein said anchor and said primer each include a region of complementary nucleotides which readily associate with each other to form a stem structure in the absence of a target nucleic acid, wherein the stem structure includes a region which is complementary to a universal primer.

2. (Original) The primer pair of Claim 1, wherein said anchor sequence and said stem regions are connected by a flexible linker.

3. (Original) The primer pair of Claim 2, wherein said flexible linker is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene glycol, polypropylene glycol, polyethylene, polypropylene, polyamides and polyesters.

4. (Original) The primer pair of Claim 1, wherein said primer comprises a tail region which extends beyond the length of said stem region of said anchor.

5. (Original) The primer pair of Claim 1, wherein said primer comprises one or more modified bases.

6. (Original) The primer pair of Claim 1, wherein said anchor comprises one or more modified backbone linkages.

7. (Original) The primer pair of Claim 1, wherein said anchor and said primer are each between 6 and 24 bases in length.

8. (Original) The primer pair of Claim 1, further in association with a universal primer which is complementary to a region of said stem structure.

9. (Original) A sequencing primer pair comprising an oligonucleotide anchor and primer, said anchor having a nucleic acid chemistry which is not a substrate for reverse transcriptases or DNA polymerases, and/or having a 3'-end which is not capable of priming nucleic acid synthesis;

wherein said primer has a nucleic acid chemistry that is a substrate for reverse transcriptases or DNA polymerases; and

wherein said anchor and said primer each include a region of complementary nucleotides which readily associate with each other to form a stem structure in the absence of a target nucleic acid.

10. (Original) The primer pair of Claim 9, wherein said stem structure includes a region which is complementary to a universal primer.

11. (Original) The primer pair of Claim 10, wherein said anchor sequence and said stem region are connected by a flexible linker.

12. (Original) The primer pair of Claim 11, wherein said flexible linker is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene glycol, polypropylene glycol, polyethylene, polypropylene, polyamides and polyesters.

13. (Original) The primer pair of Claim 10, wherein said primer comprises a tail region which extends beyond the length of said stem region of said anchor.

14. (Original) The primer pair of Claim 9, wherein said primer comprises one or more modified bases.

15. (Original) The primer pair of Claim 9, wherein said anchor comprises one or more modified backbone linkages.

16. (Original) The primer pair of Claim 9, wherein said anchor and said primer are each between 6 and 24 bases in length.

17. (Original) The primer pair of Claim 9, further in association with a universal primer which is complementary to a region of said stem structure.

18-49. Canceled

50. (Currently Amended) A kit comprising a primer pair of ~~any one of the Claims~~ Claim 1.

51. (Previously Presented) A kit comprising a primer pair of Claim 2.

52. (Previously Presented) A kit comprising a primer pair of Claim 3.

53. (Previously Presented) A kit comprising a primer pair of Claim 4.

54. (Previously Presented) A kit comprising a primer pair of Claim 5.

55. (Previously Presented) A kit comprising a primer pair of Claim 6.

56. (Previously Presented) A kit comprising a primer pair of Claim 7.

57. (Previously Presented) A kit comprising a primer pair of Claim 8.

58. (Previously Presented) A kit comprising a primer pair of Claim 9.

59. (Previously Presented) A kit comprising a primer pair of Claim 10.

60. (Previously Presented) A kit comprising a primer pair of Claim 11.

61. (Previously Presented) A kit comprising a primer pair of Claim 12.

62. (Previously Presented) A kit comprising a primer pair of Claim 13.

63. (Previously Presented) A kit comprising a primer pair of Claim 14.

64. (Previously Presented) A kit comprising a primer pair of Claim 15.

65. (Previously Presented) A kit comprising a primer pair of Claim 16.

66. (Previously Presented) A kit comprising a primer pair of Claim 17.

67. (Currently Amended) A composition for amplifying a target nucleic acid sequence, comprising a forward anchor (FA), a forward primer (FP), a reverse anchor (RA), and a reverse primer (RP),

wherein said FA and said FP self-assemble in the absence of target nucleic acid to form a first oligonucleotide-primer pair (FA/FP) and said RA and said RP self-assemble in the absence of target nucleic acid to form a second oligonucleotide-primer pair (RA/RP) via association of their complementary stem regions, and

wherein each of said oligonucleotide-primer pairs comprises target nucleic acid sequence regions that hybridize to said target nucleic acid sequence or its complement.

68. (Previously Presented) The composition of Claim 67, further comprising a forward universal primer (FUP) and a reverse universal primer (RUP), wherein said FUP is complementary to the FA/FP stem region and said RUP is complementary to the RA/RP stem region.

69. (Previously Presented) A kit comprising the composition of Claim 67.

70. (Previously Presented) A kit comprising the composition of Claim 68.

71. (Withdrawn) A method for amplifying a target nucleic acid sequence, comprising the steps of:

combining with a target nucleic acid sequence the composition of Claim 67; and

amplifying said nucleic acid sequence via enzyme-mediated amplification.

72. (Withdrawn) A method for amplifying a target nucleic acid sequence, comprising the steps of:

combining with a target nucleic acid sequence the composition of Claim 68; and

amplifying said nucleic acid sequence via enzyme-mediated amplification.

73. (Withdrawn) A method for amplifying a target nucleic acid sequence, comprising:

providing the amplification primer pair of claim 1 comprising a first target binding region configured to bind to a first end of said target nucleic acid sequence;

providing an additional primer configured to bind with a second end of said target nucleic acid sequence; and

incubating said primer pair, and said additional primer in the presence of said target nucleic acid sequence under conditions that amplify said target nucleic acid.

74. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 57 further comprising providing a universal primer that is complementary to said stem structure of said amplification primer pair of claim 1.